

**SPRING 1961**

## REFUGEE NEEDS REMAIN URGENT

Blankets and yard goods for Algerian refugees are critical needs in the AFSC Material Aids Program this year.

The Program is making a special appeal this spring and summer for blankets which can be shipped to North Africa for distribution next winter among some 250,000 refugees. An unlimited number of blankets is needed.

At least 100,000 yards of cotton or woolen textile materials are needed for distribution in Tunisia and Morocco. These materials will be used by women and girls in sewing centers equipped with 112 sewing machines sent by the AFSC. A one-yard remnant will make a blouse, two yards a skirt, and three yards a dress.

Other materials urgently needed include men's and boys' clothing, knitting yarn, and soap.

Last year the AFSC sent material aids or surplus food to people in six other countries—Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Jordan. The total shipment for the fiscal year, which ended September 30, 1960, was valued at more than \$1,242,365. The amount of surplus food sent abroad was 7,450,355 pounds.

The AFSC Material Aids Program is dependent upon voluntary contributions from manufacturers, private groups, and individuals. Last year one firm in Georgia gave the AFSC 13,000 yards of material and another donated 8,654 pounds of thread. Thousands of

hours were given to sewing, mending, collecting, packaging, and delivering items needed in the program. More than 1,000 volunteers worked many hours at the Philadelphia warehouse.

Gifts of materials may be sent to the AFSC warehouse, 23rd and Arch Streets, Philadelphia. Cash gifts should be sent to the AFSC at 160 N. 15th Street, Philadelphia.

Blankets, yard goods, and clothing for Algerian Refugees are distributed from an AFSC warehouse in Oujda, Morocco.



## PROJECT AIDS SPANISH HARLEM

By NORMA JACOB, Youth Secretary in the New York City Office of the Middle Atlantic Region

FRIENDS NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP is an AFSC year-round community service project based in the Spanish Harlem section of New York City. Eight to ten young people, most of whom stay two years, form the core of the project. Each finds a job and a place to live in

the neighborhood. Their nexus is a common concern for the life of the community. What goes on in the block is a part of their day-by-day experience; they are not welfare workers or settlement house residents, only good neighbors who patiently try to win the confidence of the people next door. It takes time; a new member of the AFSC project has to wait to be accepted. But if he perseveres, people gradually open

their lives to him and he is drawn into a circle of activities that may range from the mundane to the dramatic.

Several group members, for example, put out a mimeographed newspaper. In English and Spanish it reproduces the local gossip, poems written by neighbors, reviews of plays written and produced by local talent, essays on citizenship by boys and girls in high school, and vignettes of local celebrities, such as the Chinese laundryman.

Members of Friends Neighborhood  
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## ... what is the purpose? ...

Philadelphia, Pa.  
April, 1961

Dear Friends:



LOUIS SCHNEIDER

Almost everywhere people see changes taking place about them. Even scientists, whose discoveries of new knowledge produce new technologies that are soon obsolete, are hard pressed to keep abreast of developments.

The American Friends Service Committee is vigorously caught up by swirling changes. Our program development reflects directly the heightened pressures that impinge upon us. These call lustily for new efforts in the hope of finding a peace based on mutual confidence. We are urged to make available in a larger way our experience and resources in working to achieve racial harmony based on equality both in our country and abroad. We are striving to help enlighten the understanding between those of us in the West and our neighbors in the socialist countries, which is so essential to achieving peace. A special concern of ours is to offer young people considerably greater opportunity for service and learning. Our expectation is that they may discern patterns of relationships between groups and nations that offer greater prospect for security and self-fulfillment for all people.

What is the purpose of all this effort? In the midst of rapid changes which engulf us all there is an eternal goal toward which the AFSC and those sharing in our work are striving.

Last winter in Moscow I described to a Russian who had recently participated in an AFSC conference the broad range of the Committee's programs in Community Relations, Peace Education, Youth Services, International Service, and International Affairs. I especially emphasized our effort to encourage our own people to involve themselves in the problems with which we are so deeply concerned.

When I finished he disarmingly asked me, "What is the purpose of all this?"

"The purpose," I answered, "is the search for truth."

He, however, felt that this was "futile and not enough" to achieve a right ordering of society. This difference of approach illustrates how extremely important it is that we remain faithful to the pursuit of truth and inspire others to join us.

The doctrinaire grasp of truth imposes limitations upon human relationships and impedes progress toward unity. In sharp contrast is our own conviction about truth as a faith in which we believe, and as a basis for human relationships. There is always the possibility of new discovery, fresh insight, and further revelation. If persons on different sides of an issue are open to this, then the search for truth goes forward with a mutuality that can lead to unity.

This is the purpose of the American Friends Service Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Associate Executive Secretary for Program

## SUMMER PROJECTS OFFER VARIETY

AFSC summer projects in peace education will provide retreats for involvement in some of the critical issues of domestic and international relations. The leadership and resource persons for these events will be individuals who can both inform and stimulate participants in a careful examination of varied points of view.

A series of adult institutes, family camps, and high school world affairs camps will be conducted by the Peace Education Program and the High School Program. Attendees will discuss such provocative topics as disarmament, Latin-American problems, nonviolence, and East-West relations.

Week-long institutes for adults are being planned where discussions can be combined with the recreation available at a mountain or lakeside camp. Family camps arrange special programs to meet the needs of both parents and their children.

Inquiries regarding any of these programs may be directed to the AFSC office listed on the address panel.



Informal discussions are a feature at family camps.

Alex Morisey

## THE CRISIS OF "THE PURDAH GATE"

By BERNHARD and PAMELA KLAUSENER,  
Directors of Friends Center, Dacca, East  
Pakistan, cosponsored by the AFSC and  
Friends Service Council, London

THERE USED TO BE a big hole in the garden wall at Friends Center, Dacca, through which shy little ladies, their heads draped in ghostlike burkas, would slip for their sewing classes. Unfortunately, a variety of other people of all ages and sizes and occupations used our hole in the wall, which we called "The Purdah Gate." To decrease this constant, disturbing traffic, we decided to close the "Gate."

Consternation reigned amongst some of our ladies; they felt they could not possibly walk around to the front gate, even shrouded from head to toe as they were, but they obviously and anxiously wanted to continue their sewing. In fact, on the first day, before new arrangements could be made, some clambered over the eight-foot-high wall with the aid of chairs and stools. The solution seemed to be to move the class out into the local village area if we didn't want to lose our clients, or have them lose some limbs.

Our invaluable women's supervisor spent an afternoon visiting some of the ladies in their homes, and returned triumphant with the offer of a suitable room and porch. The householder would clean the room each week in preparation for the class, and the Center would provide mats to sit on. A boy would fetch a sewing machine in a rickshaw before the class started, and the teacher would keep the ladies *au fait* with Center gossip. Word must have spread like wildfire, for the fol-



The Friends Center in Dacca, East Pakistan, sponsors a weekly clinic for women.

lowing week on the day of the new class the teacher could hardly get in the door. The original group of six ladies had increased their number to 16, and brought a list of 28 others who wanted to join. It appears that there were some ladies too shy even to use the Purdah Gate (when it was in existence), or even to attend a class held in a house on a fairly main road, but who would love to congregate with their friends for sewing and chitchat in their own area of lanes and alleys.

The Center now runs four sewing classes—three of which are held in

different sections of the village; a fifth and possibly a sixth will be started as soon as we can find a teacher and suitable accommodations. It is satisfying to see how these women, with little or no education, yearn to sew—to make their own and their children's clothes; to embroider, and thus earn their first few cents. The current sewing groups are all self-sufficient in the purchase of materials and thread. The demand for embroidered work is so great that all work is done on order. We look forward to extending this important service to our neighborhood ladies.

### PROJECT AIDS HARLEM

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Group give English lessons to Puerto Rican young people, many of whom have been hampered by poor schooling and homes where only Spanish is spoken.

A Youth Council made up of former gang leaders convenes whenever an outbreak of violence seems threatened. Group members sit in at the meetings if they are asked, but the Council is the creation of local young people.

A family with many children has its

two-room apartment ruined by fire. Group members are called on to help find a temporary place for the children to sleep.

A boy is in trouble with the police; he may ask a group member to go with him to the precinct house and give him at least moral support.

A drug addict is found unconscious in a hallway, suffering from an overdose. The ambulance should be called, but neighbors hold back for fear of the police. A group member steps in and the man gets medical care in time to save his life.

A projects house on East 111th Street serves as a center for many of the activities, and as a meeting ground for Spanish Harlem young people and visitors from the world outside. An intercultural work camp program was begun recently to give the two groups a chance to work side by side on renovation projects within the neighborhood.

After a day of work there is often a dance, and ladies of the local community are sometimes invited in to help prepare a typical Puerto Rican meal for the work campers from more distant places.



... The omnipresence of war  
pervades our lives ...



... The old gaze in astonish-  
ment at bomb shelters ...



... What are we teaching the  
young with defense drills? ...



Silent vigils — a testi-  
mony against violence ...

## "THE LANGUAGE OF FACES" SPEAKS FOR PEACE

A NEW FILM featuring the Quaker Vigil at the Pentagon last fall has just been completed by the AFSC Information Service. *The Language of Faces*, a 16 mm. black-and-white film running 17 minutes, deals with the individual's responsibility to face the issues of war and peace. It was commissioned by AFSC's Peace Education Division, which wanted a film that would "explore the war inside us and around us and point up the crucial importance of taking a stand against mass violence," according to John Korty, AFSC co-ordinator of audio-visual materials.

Korty wrote, produced, and directed the film. His cameras aimed at dramatizing the omnipresence of war and preparations for war in our daily lives.

He avoids, however, the scare tactics of mushrooming clouds and other sensational horror scenes that have earmarked earlier peace films. Korty believes that these tactics numb audiences into hopelessness and inaction. He wanted an approach that is more hopeful and creative.

He begins by showing how people ignore the mass preparation for mass destruction to avoid facing themselves. He appeals for an understanding of the difference between the darkness outside and the light within that must be faced before the necessary re-evaluation of the military posture can begin.

The latter part of the film shows the 1960 Quaker Peace Witness, in which 1000 Friends stood in silent vigil before

the Pentagon, their faces speaking a silent testimony against violence as an instrument for peace. Although this activity was sponsored by the Committee for Quaker Peace Witness and not by AFSC, the film is offered as a service by AFSC to those Friends who took part, to Quakers across the country who supported the witness with their prayers, and to all Americans who are seeking constructive ways to promote peace.

Original music for *The Language of Faces* is by Teiji Ito, and the narration is by Meredith Dallas. The film will soon be available through national and regional offices of the AFSC. Copies can be purchased for \$50 each. The fee for single showings is \$3.

AFSC BULLETIN Number 72 Form 3547 Requested

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, a Quaker organization, attempts to relieve human suffering and find creative solutions to tensions between individuals, groups, or nations. We believe there is that of God in every man, and that love in action can overcome hatred, prejudice, and fear. Our work is open to anyone regardless of race, religion, or nationality. We depend upon your contributions. Checks may be sent to the American Friends Service Committee at any of its offices.

American Friends Service Committee  
160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.